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an enigma, for Mr. Charles Francis Adams, the other authoritative student of the subject, has not found a better answer than has Mr. Bradford, though no one inclines as the years go by to renew the old charge of ambition and treason.

WILLIAM E. DODD.

History of Reconstruction in Louisiana (through 1868). By JOHN ROSE FICKLEN. [Johns Hopkins University Studies in History and Political Science, series XXVIII., no. 1.] (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press. 1910. Pp. ix, 234.)

THE period of reconstruction has long been regarded by students as one of the most complicated, if not the most complicated period in our history; difficult in that so many adverse elements enter—elements as varied as the activities and motives of humanity. Whether on account of the inherent problems to be dealt with or whether our students are slow in taking up the threads of this complex period, the fact remains that it is only during the last decade that any studies of importance have been issued dealing with this particular phase of our history. A number of successful books, painstaking in detail, have been published, but hardly one with better claim of merit than that of Professor Ficklen's.

It is one of the distressing facts of life, met with almost daily, that those best fitted to begin and end a thing are cut down in the prime of their powers—and so it was with Professor Ficklen, whose life was taken before he had finished his labors.

In this connection, however, we have only applause for the work of Professor Pierce Butler, who served as editor in bringing out the volume. It was a work of love on his part to complete what his master had proposed.

Very rightly, of course, Professor Ficklen began his study with an excellent chapter devoted to the ante-bellum history of Louisiana. However, in our view, he did not go quite far enough, beginning his discussion with the period prior to the admission of Texas. He shows indeed the complexity of elements making up the political life of Louisiana, although he devotes no space to the Louisiana of the purchase nor to the formative period prior to the forties. The threads of Louisiana's political life were, from the very first, much tangled, and this undoubtedly accounts in large part for the perturbed course leading up to the Civil War, and through it and reconstruction; and even to this day we find some anomalous conditions in that commonwealth.

He handles Butler's administration in New Orleans without gloves, as it deserves to be. His high-handed course there, in many cases, outraged not only all the canons of accepted belligerency, but those of the finer canons in the code of decency as well. Quite a little new information has been brought to light through the professor's researches.

As for Banks, he bears very much better the light, and indeed, whatever his failings and weaknesses, he showed himself to have a much

clearer head in the matter of administration. He attempted, quite honestly, to enforce the President's scheme for reconstruction, and administered his office skilfully and with some concern for the right. It was not an easy undertaking, and it may be said that he disposed of complex problems with considerable success. Banks showed his foresight when he took the opposite side as against universal negro suffrage.

The convention of 1864, which resulted in the election of Hahn as governor, marked a long step in advance in the progress of Louisiana towards a reconstructed Union; but, after all, the question of the government of Louisiana during the war and immediately after, is about as intricate and unsatisfactory a question as can be approached. In truth, there existed hardly anything more than the semblance of government, so distracted and so cut up in sections were the people. With the limits of the Union's authority reaching scarcely beyond the bayonet and with the Confederate interests divided by the Mississippi River, the people could act for themselves only in very restricted communities. Thus the matter hung until the end of the war.

Immediately after the cessation of hostilities the problem of reconstruction under President Johnson was presented to the people. Satisfactory progress was being made when the Congressional strife was started; before very long everything was in a state of turmoil. It was at this time that Butler again appeared, winning notoriety for himself and his brother in further exploitations. The culmination was finally reached in the riot of July, 1866, which was seized upon by the radicals in Congress as sufficient reason to invoke a more strenuous procedure in the process of reconstruction. The programme was crystallized in the Reconstruction Acts of 1866-1867.

It was no small matter for the real rulers of Louisiana to recover the reins of power. With a voting population of 120,000, we find 80,000 negroes and Republicans with ballots in their hands, who could not have been defeated but for the action of the White Camelia and the Ku Klux. The so-called massacre of 1868, preceding the presidential election, was most confusing in character; and even Professor Ficklen is obliged to say that with the sworn statements of the participants on both sides before him it was extremely difficult, if not impossible, to obtain an accurate account of these conflicts. Thus matters went until after the election. The Seymour and Blair electors received 80,000 votes; the Grant and Colfax electors only 33,000 votes. The final result is too well known to warrant comment; and here the volume ends.

Several more strenuous years were destined to pass before equilibrium was restored, and it is regrettable that Professor Ficklen was not able to bring his work to a final conclusion. The general character of his discussion is scholarly and unbiased, in spite of the fact that he himself came out of a hotbed of Southern aristocracy. In a word, while the materials for the period in which he labored are complicated, confusing, and contradictory, the volume on reconstruction is a decided addition to

the literature of the time, giving us a clearer view of those years of turmoil and blood.

W. F. McCaleb.

MINOR NOTICES

The Hindu-Arabic Numerals. By David Eugene Smith and Louis Charles Karpinski. (Boston and London, Ginn and Company, 1911, pp. vi, 160.) The scope of this little work is well indicated by the titles of its eight chapters which are, respectively, as follows: Early Ideas of their Origin; Early Hindu Forms with no Place Value; Later Hindu Forms with a Place Value; the Symbol Zero; the Question of the Introduction of the Numerals into Europe by Boethius; the Development of the Numerals among the Arabs; the Definite Introduction of the Numerals into Europe; the Spread of the Numerals in Europe. A page is devoted to the pronunciation of Oriental names, and there is an index of eight pages consisting, for the most part, of the names of writers, ancient and modern, to whose books or articles reference is made in the body of the work. Various cuts illustrative of different forms of the numerals in different parts of the world and at different periods add both interest and value to the book.

In a subject like the history of the origin and development of our numerals where much is, and possibly always will be, obscure, it is very easy to accept as certain what is at best only more or less probable and to build theories on insufficient foundations. Our authors, however, have been careful to distinguish clearly between fact and opinion, and they have given a large number of references both to the older and to the more recent literature of the subject, thus enabling the careful student to weigh their conclusions, and also affording him much material for continuing his own researches.

The authors deserve the thanks of students for their valuable little book.

Handbuch der Urkundenlehre für Deutschland und Italien. Von Harry Bresslau. Erster Band, zweite Auflage. (Leipzig, Veit und Comp., 1912, pp. xviii, 748.) Since its publication in 1889 made generally available for the first time the results of two generations of diplomatic studies, Professor Bresslau's *Handbuch* has held an assured place among scholars. It is true that it no longer monopolizes the field, for Giry's excellent *Manuel*—*vortrefflich*, Bresslau himself calls it—appeared in 1894, and more recently the subject of diplomatics has been well treated in Meister's *Grundriss der Geschichtswissenschaft* and in the *Handbuch* of von Below and Meinecke; but none of these has superseded it. Giry's book, with all its convenience, follows the Benedictine tradition in giving a large part of its space to ancillary matters to the exclusion of important phases of diplomatics proper, and the last-named works are too brief to be adequate even within the German and Italian field, so that a new